

July-August 2018



The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter
Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

www.ebcnps.org

www.nativeherenursery.org

MEMBERS' MEETING SEPTEMBER PREVIEW

Members' meetings are on summer recess during July and August, but mark your calendar for a great program when we resume in September.

Wednesday, September 26, 7:30 pm, Orinda Library Garden Room

Speaker: Pete Veilleux, East Bay Wilds

Topic: Buckwheats for Your Garden

Buckwheats at East Bay Wilds Nursery. Photo by Pete Veilleux.



NATIVE HERE NURSERY REPORT

Charli Danielsen, the founder of our nursery, suffered a stroke in late May while she and John were visiting their daughter in Tacoma. Fortunately they realized what was happening and got treatment right away, but her right side was paralyzed and her speech was affected. The first weeks after a stroke are the most important period for recovering lost functions. They will stay in Tacoma through that phase, then return to the Bay Area around the end of July.

Anyone wishing to send Charli a card or other good wishes can write to her in care of

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California Native Plant Society
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Elmwood Station
Berkeley CA 94705

We always knew that Charli and John did a tremendous amount of work at the nursery, in addition to having by far the most knowledge of how to grow the plants, when to do what, and all the details like ordering supplies and seeing that there were clean rags. Now that we must run the nursery without them for a while, we are learning both how much we don't know and how much we do. The volunteers have been wonderful, stepping up to do what's necessary to keep things going and sharing their knowledge and experience.

The Nursery Committee is deeply grateful.

Neither John nor Charli will be at Native Here for some months, so the Nursery Committee has decided to approach the situation in two phases. First we need to be sure that we can understand the daily operations – opening, closing, watering, potting. We're pretty close to doing that. Next we have to figure out how much of the seed collecting needs to be covered, because John did a lot of it. Finally we will have to plan the propagation season, create the special feature days to draw in customers during fall and winter, and deal with the changes that occur in any business over time.

Ways you can help: (1) Sign up to water, at least during the summer when it's a major activity. We can pair you up with an experienced waterer to learn the ropes. Write to Ruth Ann Pearsons at rpearsons1@mac.com to sign up. Even one shift helps. (2) We are looking for someone with experience in seed collecting to cover any gaps we may have. Write to me at ldhunt@astound.net if you can help with that.

Lesley Hunt
Nursery Committee Chair

CONSERVATION ANALYST REPORT

Antioch Sand Creek initiative gets over 5,000 signatures

The alliance of organizations that have been working to put the “Let Antioch Voters Decide: Sand Creek Area Protection Initiative” on the Antioch ballot turned in over 5,000 signatures to place the initiative on the November ballot.

Lesley Hunt is the Chapter’s Antioch Campaign Liaison (she also serves as Native Here Nursery Liaison and Outreach Chair). Lesley inspired our members to volunteer in the weekend signature gathering over several months, and Membership Chair Sally de Becker has been expanding our chapter membership efforts in Contra Costa County.

Thank you to volunteers from our chapter who stood in front of area supermarkets to educate people about the issue and to ask them to put the initiative on the ballot. In addition to Lesley and Sally, Conservation Chair Jim Hanson, President Beth Wurzburg, and Field Trips Chair Janet Gawthrop, Conservation Analyst Karen Whitestone, Delia and John Taylor, Field Trips Chair Janet Gawthrop, and Dick Schneider of the Sierra Club gathered signatures in front of the Wal-Mart on Lone Tree Way on Sunday, April 29 (photo credit, Sally de Becker).

Unfortunately, a competing ballot initiative was announced at the end of April. Supporters of this other initiative include Richland Communities, the development company proposing The Ranch project. Our initiative is titled, “Let Antioch Voters Decide.” It seems a lot more people are aware of the Sand Creek area and development projects in Antioch now.

Senate Bill 1316 to preserve Livermore’s Tesla passes two California Senate committees

Below: Volunteers collecting signatures for the Antioch initiative.

A bill was introduced to the California Senate in February to preserve Tesla. It is called Senate Bill 1316 - Off-highway vehicular recreation: Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area: Alameda-Tesla Expansion Area.

SB 1316 states that the Department would be allowed to sell the Alameda-Tesla Expansion Area for conservation purposes, and money from the sale would be returned to the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division. This would allow the OHMVR Division to pursue property more suitable for Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs). SB 1316 would provide a clear mechanism as an option to resolve the longstanding local controversy over Tesla. Senator Steve Glazer introduced the bill with principal co-author Assembly Member Catharine Baker.

CNPS supports SB 1316 with encouragement from our East Bay Chapter. A total of 25 organizations and 6 public agencies also have written letters of support.

SB 1316 successfully passed in both the Senate Governmental Organization Committee and Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee in late April, and the California Senate in late May.

The first two Assembly hearings are Tuesday, June 26, and Wednesday, June 27.

Thank you for helping to Save Tesla Park! Keep an eye out for action alerts to contact your local Legislators.

Karen Whitestone



POINT ISABEL RESTORATION

People go to amazing lengths to participate in our Pt. Isabel work parties. Some volunteers bike in from great distances, others come by BART and walk the length of Central Avenue, but few can beat the commitment and dedication shown by Steve Young who comes in several times a year from Kokomo, Indiana! On June 16 Steve drove his son's Jag from Kokomo to Salt Lake City before hopping on a plane to get to San Francisco in time for the work party.

It's that wonderful time of the year when scores of native bees, honey bees, butterflies, and birds are dining on the profusion of blooms and seeds at the site. All the work done by our amazing stewards and volunteers, and by Mother Nature herself, comes to a head. Point Isabel is blooming with California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*), several species of *Clarkia*, black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), lizard tail (*Eriophyllum staechadifolium*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), bee plant (*Scrophularia californica*) and California rose (*Rosa californica*). This year Mother Nature has provided us with a beautiful specimen of evening primrose (*Oenothera elata* ssp. *hookeri*) that is now in full bloom. The blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*) and red fescue (*Festuca rubra*) are heavy with seed and the birds are already partaking of the purple needlegrass (*Stipa pulchra*) seed they find on the ground. We have also planted a fair amount of frogfruit, also known as turkey tangle (*Phyla*

nodiflora), which attracts the tiniest of pollinators, including the exquisite emerald green sweat bees.

Special thanks this month to Shannon, Greg, and Hugo from the City of Richmond and to our steward Rob Kirby for hauling away trash that was dumped along Rydin Road. As always, our thanks go to our EBRPD Ranger Bruce, whose assistance and enthusiasm is key to the success of our project.
Jane and Tom Kelly



Above, Steward Nina weeds her site. Below Mother Nature's gift and the Pt. Isabel crew (with Hooker's evening primrose in the back). Photos by Jane Kelly.



MORE POINT ISABEL PICTURES



The Adopt-a-spot crew (above) and workers in the poppies. Photos by Jane Kelly.



RESTORATION PROJECTS

Sunday, July 1 and August 5, 10:00 am, Northshore Basin, mouth of Schoolhouse Creek. Led by John Kenny. This group involves both weeding and planting, but dry weather will likely put the focus on weeding. The worksite is to the left as you travel the Bay Trail in Eastshore State Park. If you pass the sports fields going north, turn around and come back closer to the shoreline. E-mail Johnkenny54@yahoo.com for more information.

Saturday, July 7 and August 4, 9:30 am, Pt. Isabel at Eastshore State Park. Led by Greens at Work. Summer watering will be in full swing, but weeding will continue. There will be additional work dates for at least supplemental watering of newly planted areas. E-mail Kyotousa@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Saturday, July 14 and August 11 at 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Botanic Preserve

Weeding will continue over the summer, with a focus on *Vinca* and cape ivy in more shaded locations. For more information email janetgawthrop47@gmail.com

Saturday, July 14 and August 18, 10 am, Garber Park Join Garber Park Stewards in this remnant natural area just above the Claremont Hotel. Focus will be on weeding. For more information see the Meetup page for Garber Park Stewards or e-mail garberparkstewards@gmail.com.

Sunday, July 15 and August 19 at 9 am, Sibley Park Please note the 9 am start time. We will continue to meet at Old Tunnel Road staging area on the Orinda side of the park. If you are coming from Skyline Gate (Oakland-side) or need further information e-mail janetgawthrop47@gmail.com.

FIELD TRIPS

Lesley Buck will lead her Art in Nature trip to Muir Beach on July 15 at 1 pm. See meetup.com/ebcnps

Gregg Weber will lead a field trip to Briones Regional Park on Sunday, September 2. See meetup.com/ebcnps

*The respectable folks, -
Where dwell they?
They whisper in the oaks,
And they sigh in the hay;
Summer and winter,
night and day,
Out on the meadow, there dwell they.
They never die,
Nor snivel nor cry,
Nor ask our pity
With a wet eye.
A sound estate they ever mend,
To every asker readily lend;
To the ocean wealth,
To the meadow health,
To Time his length,
To the rocks strength,
To the stars light,
To the weary night,
To the busy day,
To the idle play;
And so their good cheer never ends,
For all are their debtors and all their friends.*

*from A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers
by Henry David Thoreau*

SKYLINE GARDENS REPORT

June 22, 2018

We had good workdays last week. We continued to follow up on scattergrass over in Bay Grove land and then we did a complete sweep for burr chervil (aka sock destroyer or velcro plant) in the Yampah Bowl area. Welcome to Marilyn, Lynn, Jennifer, Margot, and Libby.

As to flowers, the volume of bloom at Skyline is the greatest of the year. Mostly, that's the slopes of sticky monkey flower, but let's start with some of the smaller ones.

Coyote mint (*Monardella villosa*) is now blooming on the sunny rocky slopes. From a distance, they might look like a clump of ground hugging thistles, but up close they are lovely; and the leaves are very fragrant. Here's two in bloom (thanks to Francesca for this photo):

Next we have California skullcap (*Scutellaria californica*). These are small white snapdragon-like flowers blooming on stems a foot or less in height. Here's a shot of some:



These plants grow in clumps and spread by underground runners. They are very uncommon in our area but grow trailside in the Buckeye Grove area south of the Steam Trains, and here and there along the north crest of the ridges. (Thanks to Jessica for this shot.)



Now we get to the showy ones - here's a slope just covered with sticky monkey flower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*). While much

of the East Bay now looks like a crisp, brown cracker, up at Skyline the party is on. Look at this:

Can you believe it? Four years ago this slope was dominated by *Eucalyptus* trees. Thanks to their removal, we can witness the return of the natives in full swing; and not only the plants, but also hummingbirds, bumblebees, and a host of other pollinators are all here for the flowers. In the background,



the live oaks are starting to fill out, now that they have more light. This is all really inspiring. (Photo thanks to Margaret) In pockets along the trail, farewell-to-spring (*Clarkia rubicunda*) is having a great year, too. Here's a swath of them:

Pink and orange, what a color combination; bold and brassy - now this is California!



Happy Trails,

Glen Schneider

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Officers and Committee Chairs serve on the Board

Committees are formed based on chapter needs and the interests of volunteers. Proposals for committees and projects are welcome and will be considered by the Board

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